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SUBJECT: Goma Report: August 29 meeting of Joint
Monitoring Group Task Force

¶1. Summary: Rwandan side called for faster deployment of FARDC battalions to combat FDLR. DRC side said it regretted missing deadlines but pointed to progress, e.g., in increased rates of repatriation of FDLR. End summary.

¶2. In another amicable meeting of the Task Force of the Joint Monitoring Group August 29, DRC's Col. Mamba evaluated DRC's performance since the last JMG as not meeting everyone's hopes but moving in the right direction. He said that, according to MONUC figures, the average number of FDLR repatriating to Rwanda per month had doubled in recent months, going from roughly 30 to 60 combatants per month. In its four-phase anti-FDLR military plan, the present second phase (about to come to an end) projected deployment of 24 FARDC battalions. Eight had been deployed and another nine were being trained by MONUC and would soon be deployed. Mamba regretted that DRC would not be fully able to meet the deadline with 24 battalions. Meanwhile, DRC had made a good start on disarming FDLR with the admittedly small RUD group at Kassiki. Important contacts were being made with FOCA, about which the time was not ripe for fuller discussion.

¶3. The Rwandan side, again led by its deputy head of delegation Rudasingwa, reviewed point by point Rwanda's obligations under the Nairobi Communique, asserting it had fully accomplished every requirement. On the point of not supporting Nkunda, Rudasingwa went into some detail about Rwanda's rules on nationality (citizenship granted to anyone who speaks Kinyarwanda and one of whose parents was born in Rwanda). He said that there were thus many dual nationals who, when arrested in DRC, could claim Rwandan citizenship in the hope of being sent to Rwanda. In any case, he said, DRC should not assume that someone with Rwandan citizenship was sent into DRC by Rwanda.

¶4. For the meeting of the Special Envoys in the Joint Monitoring Group to be held in Kinshasa September 1, Rudasingwa recommended that the international community push MONUC and DRC to have closer and fuller access to FDLR, implement UNSC resolution 1804 on clamping down on travel of FDLR leaders, and put pressure on DRC to speed up deployment of the promised 24 battalions. He described the effort at Kassiki as a "good parenthesis" but inadequate.

¶5. Task Force agreed upon a field visit to Rwanda September 12 or 19 to observe UNHCR handling of repatriated FDLR classified by Rwanda as not being ex-combatants.

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